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NCSU LIBRARIES
VOLUME 22 NO. 3
2002

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Future home of the Hill of Beans Coffee Bar.

TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

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Photographs by Sheri Thomas, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.

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Carl A. Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School Go Digital

BY RUSSELL KOONTS, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Students of the Biltmore Forest School are shown ready for fieldwork in front of the first American schoolhouse for forestry, ca. 1911. Carl A. Schenck is pictured in the middle, wearing the white shirt. From the Carl Alwin Schenck Collection, Special Collections, NCSU Libraries.

The NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Department, in collaboration with the Biltmore Estate Company in Asheville and the Forest History Society in Durham, has received a \$48,100 **North Carolina ECHO** ([Exploring Cultural Heritage Online](#)) EZ-Library Services and Technology Act digitization demonstration grant, which will be used to build a forestry research Web site featuring materials specific to North Carolina. The site will make previously inaccessible or inconveniently located primary research materials—such as photo-

graphs, diaries, correspondence, artifacts, and printed materials—available to anyone with Web access.

By the late-1880s, forested land around Asheville, North Carolina, faced an uncertain future. Landowners had cleared much of the original forest for farming and had repeatedly removed timber from the remaining patchwork of woodlands. Additionally, wildfires and overgrazing by cattle and hogs had left the landscape in extremely poor condition. George Washington Vanderbilt, whose Biltmore Estate was then being built, began acquiring thousands of acres



Carl A. Schenck, 1911, in Sunburst, North Carolina. From the Carl Alwin Schenck Collection, Special Collections, NCSU Libraries.



*Carl A. Schenck and his wife Adele in the Pinkbeds valley in Pisgah Forest, 1909. According to Schenck, the Pinkbeds valley derived its name from the pinkish color of the mountain laurel that covered the bottom of its 3,000 acres [see Carl A. Schenck, *The Biltmore Story; Recollections of the Beginning of Forestry in the United States* (St. Paul: American Forest History Foundation, Minnesota Historical Society, 1955): 30]. Photo from the Carl Alwin Schenck Collection, Special Collections, NCSU Libraries.*

surrounding his property, which helped preserve some woodlands. To manage his grounds and gardens, Vanderbilt hired Frederick Law Olmsted, America's preeminent landscape architect. Olmsted recognized the importance of reestablishing the surrounding forests and recommended that Vanderbilt hire Gifford Pinchot, the first forester born and trained in America, to administer the first large-scale, scientifically managed forest in the United States.

In 1890 Olmsted presented his plan, "Project of Operations for Improving the Forest of Biltmore," which Pinchot implemented. The

Biltmore Estate soon became recognized as the "Cradle of Forestry." When Pinchot left Biltmore to become chief of the Forestry Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, he recommended that Vanderbilt hire Carl Alwin Schenck to be his successor. Schenck, who studied forestry in Germany and received his Ph.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Giessen, developed the Biltmore Forest into a national resource.

When Schenck began his work at Biltmore in 1895, its forestlands had increased to more than 100,000 acres. During his fourteen-year tenure,



Carl A. Schenck and students in Germany's Black Forest, taken during the winter of 1909–1910. From the Carl Alwin Schenck Collection, Special Collections, NCSU Libraries.

a large variety of forestry practices were instituted, including the reforestation of over 2,000 acres of depleted farmland. For more than fifty years, scientists from the United States Forest Service used some of the forest plantations as research plots and published reports of their studies. The Biltmore Forest School, established by Schenck in 1898 as America's first forestry school, contributed significantly to the profession of forestry by training more than 300 of the country's foresters until its close in 1913.

The Carl Alwin Schenck Collection forms the foundation of Special Collections' resources on forest history and natural resources. It chronicles the history of the Biltmore Forestry School, which established forestry as an academic discipline, and its alumni. The Schenck collection of letters, diaries, photographs, and other materials also documents the history of the Biltmore forest and nursery and the start of the lumber and forestry industries in North Carolina.

Special Collections plans to digitize more than 1,500 photographs and negatives dating from 1889 to 1951. While the majority of these original photographs exist in "modern" form, a number of them are glass-plate negatives and slides. Additionally, existing photographs are beginning to deteriorate because of age and years of improper storage conditions. The photographs detail life at the Biltmore Forest School, forest-study tours in Europe and America, and forestry-training programs. The collection also includes images captured during Schenck's travels across the United States, Canada, and Europe. America's fascination with wealthy and powerful families will be piqued by some of the photographs of George Washington Vanderbilt and the Biltmore Estate, the largest residence in private hands in the United States.

To supplement the digitized images, the department will digitize some 14,000 letters, diaries, journals, and reports. Schenck's diaries

and journals, ranging in date from 1890 to 1954, contain information about his experiences at school, his years as a forester, and his life in Germany. Biographical sketches of the Biltmore students, often supplemented by photographic portraits, paint a picture of the typical forestry student at the turn of the century. These students are noteworthy, as they were the first to embark on careers in a newly formed discipline. Among the printed materials are ephemeral school newsletters, newspaper articles published during the early years of the school, and significant works dedicated to Schenck, including *Trees for the Great: Honoring Carl Alwin Schenck*, published by the American Forestry Association in 1952. This publication contains two sound records that will be digitized and made accessible through the project's Web site. Images of artifacts, such as pins and flags from the Biltmore School, also will be incorporated into the digital collection.

While the Schenck collection has its own assortment of wood samples, perhaps the best use of tree specimens appears in Romeyn B. Hough's *The American Woods: Exhibited by Actual Specimens and with Copious Explanatory Text* (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons, and Co., 1888, 1910). This fourteen-volume set of individual wood samples (350 plates in all, with three specimens per plate) constitutes an important title in the study of American forestry. The book's publication represented Hough's

lifetime achievement and was a labor of love. Today, the existence of complete sets is rare. The library's nearly complete set is missing just four plates from part XII and the supplemental part XIV published by Hough's daughter after his death in 1924. Hough's remarkable work describes the woods found in America using a detailed description in an accompanying pamphlet and thin cross-sections of actual woods arranged geographically, then mounted and labeled on accompanying cardboard mounts. Generally, each species is shown with the wood cut on traverse, radial, and tangential sections. The samples are so thin as to be easily translucent. A full scan of each plate, as well as one of its accompanying text, will complement this project.

The NC ECHO grant will enable the Special Collections Department to create the foundation of a forestry research and instruction Web site. Building on this base, future digitization efforts will provide complementary materials relating to forestry within the library's collections. Such materials include the Bruce John Zobel, Vincent Ross and Associates, and Robert W. Graeber collections, as well as selected materials from the NCSU College of Natural Resources. Resources digitized during the 2001–2002 grant cycle will be made publicly accessible in July 2002 on the Special Collections Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/archives/forestry>. ❖



“It Was Always About ‘We’”: James Ferrell’s Fifty Years with NC State

BY TERRELL ARMISTEAD CROW, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

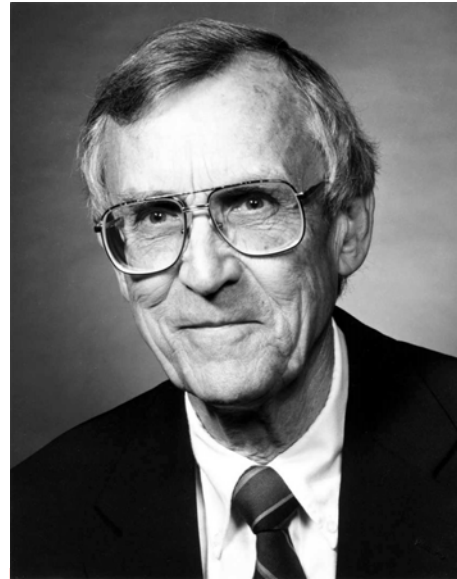
James K. Ferrell believed in the notion of service, and he practiced it his entire life, both personally and professionally. Ferrell, a native of Missouri born in 1923, served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, where he was wounded. He received a Purple Heart, but he rarely spoke of this to friends and colleagues.

Ferrell returned to his home state after the war and earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from the University of Missouri, beginning his lifelong career in chemical engineering. He received the first doctorate awarded by NC State in that field in 1954 and put it to good use working in industry. Nonetheless, the need to explore new initiatives and to give something back to NC State prompted Ferrell’s return to the university in 1961 as a full professor. Ferrell truly found his calling, serving as an extraordinarily productive faculty member and administrator at NCSU for the next forty years.

When he died at the age of seventy-eight on November 27, 2001, Ferrell’s long-standing support for the NCSU Libraries led his family to request that memorial donations be made to the **James K. Ferrell Endowment** at the NCSU Libraries. Thomas Elleman, professor emeritus of nuclear engineering at NCSU, was a close friend and colleague of Ferrell’s for many years. Elleman notes,

Jim supported the library because it had suffered from cuts to its budget and collections. He felt strongly that it was a real disadvantage for the chemical engineering department when the library had to cut collections his department needed. He was proud of the department and wanted its faculty and students to have what they needed in library resources.

J. Lawrence Apple, NC State professor emeritus of plant pathology and president of the



James K. Ferrell. Photo courtesy of Visual Communications, NCSU.

Friends of the Library Board of Directors, met Jim Ferrell during their graduate school days at NCSU and worked with him in the Association of Retired Faculty (ARF). Apple readily understands Ferrell’s support of the library.

Jim always felt that the library was a key element of the educational process. He was one of the supporters of ARF’s long-term initiatives for the library, and this is reflected in the family’s desire to have memorial donations given for that purpose in Jim’s memory.

Ferrell provided leadership and guidance to many programs at the university. Hal Hopfenburg, the Camille Dreyfus Professor of Chemical Engineering at NC State, astutely described Ferrell as “a great citizen for his college and his department.” In 1966 Ferrell became head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, which he carefully nurtured to national prominence during his tenure there until 1980, when

“Jim was a really nice guy with the ability to zero in on what was important and then cut through red tape and arrive at solutions. He provided leadership when it was needed and could lead his department, college, and university in new directions.”

—THOMAS ELLEMAN

Hopfenburg succeeded him as department head. Bill Willis (vice president of Systems Strategy for Cable and Wireless), a former NCSU graduate student and university vice provost who worked with Ferrell on major computing initiatives, remembers studying Ferrell’s management style. Willis recalls that Ferrell encouraged associates and students to find solutions and develop initiatives that would help the department, the college, and the university. Willis says,

There are two things to know about Jim Ferrell. One, he recognized good ideas and people when he ran into them. Second, he empowered people to make decisions, and then he was there when things needed to come together to move along. He helped people achieve their goals without ever making the decisions for them. He saw the potential in people and brought it out. . . . Jim would always step up in terms of delivery. He was always there when the university, or department, or students needed him.

Among the innovations Ferrell brought to the College of Engineering was the Eos computer system, and he helped to organize the Triangle University Computation Center that linked NC State, Duke University, and UNC–Chapel Hill. Ferrell also directed energy and environmental research programs in the College of Engineering and served as the college’s dean of research and as interim dean. NC State and other institutions formally honored his work with

many awards, including the Holladay Medal for Excellence (1993). Ferrell became a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering and was named Alcoa Professor of Chemical Engineering in 1967.

Following his official retirement in 1991, NC State still sought Ferrell’s help. There were many things Ferrell enjoyed doing outside of the university. He loved spending time with his family at the beach. He was a craftsman who built furniture and a musician who played the classical guitar. He brewed his own beer and enjoyed reading. Nevertheless, Ferrell regularly returned to NC State when asked. Elleman says that Ferrell’s leadership skills made him invaluable to others. “Jim felt committed to NC State. He’d retire and then get called back; there were several cycles of that. He felt obligated to help, even when he really didn’t want to.” Elleman adds, “Jim was a really nice guy with the ability to zero in on what was important and then cut through red tape and arrive at solutions. He provided leadership when it was needed and could lead his department, college, and university in new directions.”

Willis believes Ferrell’s support for the Libraries reflected his passion for building a consensus and working for the good of the entire university, not just a single department or college.

He supported the library as he did other things. It was always about “we.” He built something into a bigger whole, . . . and he pulled things together to gain ground. Jim saw the library as a resource that was important to the entire university—so he didn’t worry about part of the budget being taken from him—he’d say what he thought was right and lead the advance to help the library.

Willis helped to found the James K. Ferrell Endowment at the NCSU Libraries in 1999 to honor his mentor [*see Focus*, vol. 20.3 (2000): 8]. Ferrell’s widow Dorothy, son John, and daughter Janet selected this endowment as the best way to honor James Ferrell’s lifetime accomplishments and commitment to NC State. Those interested in making donations to the endowment should write a check to the Friends of the Library with “James K. Ferrell Library Endowment” recorded on the memo line. Mail the check to the Friends of the Library, NCSU, Campus Box 7111, Raleigh, N.C. 27695. ♦

Dr. Metcalf or, How We Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bugs

BY CAROLINE WEAVER, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



“Perhaps the last of the great European private collections in entomology . . .”

THOMAS H. ENGLISH ON THE
FRIEDRICH F. TIPPMANN COLLECTION,
IN *ROADS TO RESEARCH, DISTINGUISHED LIBRARY
COLLECTIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST*

*Zeno P. Metcalf (1885–1956) has been called “one of America’s most eminent entomologists” (Phi Kappa Phi Journal, 1956). His life and research, including his monumental work *The General Catalogue of the Homoptera*, contributed significantly to the advancement of entomology as a field of study. Photo from Special Collections, NCSU Libraries.*

The Zeno P. Metcalf Collection is one of five major collections on insects housed in the NCSU Libraries’ Special Collections Department. The other major collections are the Friedrich F. Tippmann Collection, the Clyde F. Smith Papers, the Maurice Hugh Farrier Papers, and the Entomology Department Drawing Collection. The history of these collections illustrates how NC State’s Department of Entomology has contributed to the Libraries’ success over the years and exemplifies the positive impact faculty can have on collections that relate to their fields of research. Entomology professor David A. Young informed the library that the Tippmann collection was for sale. Metcalf, Smith, and Farrier were all professors of

entomology who donated their papers and research materials to the library. NC State faculty and students prepared the drawings in the Entomology Department Drawing Collection, which was curated by entomology professor James R. Baker.

The NCSU Libraries has long enjoyed the active support of the Department of Entomology, and two entomologists have received the NCSU Libraries Faculty Award: Maurice H. Farrier became the first Faculty Award winner in 1989, and Lewis L. Deitz received the award in 1999. Currently, Deitz and library staff are working on an Internet-accessible database for existing entomological literature between 1758 and 1955 about leafhoppers and treehoppers (Membracoidea) and related insects. Students

working for the library have been digitizing and editing Zeno P. Metcalf's bibliography of literature on the auchenorrhynchos Homoptera and its associated geographic and topical indexes. The Metcalf project is funded by a National Science Foundation grant,¹ and, when completed, will be available through the library's Web site. In recent years, NC State faculty and students in entomology also raised funds to purchase French designer Eugene Alain Séguy's *Insectes: Vingt Planches en Phototypie Coloriées au Patron Donnant Quatre-vingts Insectes et Seize Compositions Décoratives* [Paris: Chartre et Van Buggenhoudt, ca. 1928]. The stunning beauty and colors of this publication's twenty hand-painted plates were created using the pochoir technique, a printing process that employs a series of stencils to lay down the colors. Further, entomology faculty have created an Entomological Special Collections Endowment to ensure that the Libraries can purchase additional items of significant scholarly value and thus maintain the exceptional level of entomological materials.

The connection between the Libraries and NCSU entomology faculty began with celebrated professor of entomology and zoology Zeno P. Metcalf, who taught at NC State from 1912 to 1956. He served as president of the Entomological Society of America in 1947 and as president of the Ecological Society of America in 1949. Metcalf published nine books and dozens of journal articles, but



Detail from Séguy's Insectes, plate number 15. Séguy, inspired by exotic and colorful insects, created detailed entomological drawings from illustrations in scientific publications, rather than from actual specimens. The Insectes portfolio features eighty insects from around the world and sixteen abstract entomological wallpaper designs.

he is perhaps best known for his works *Bibliography of the Homoptera* (1942) and the forty-two-volume *General Catalogue of the Homoptera of the World*. Both works reflect the decades he spent compiling all known references to and studies on the homopteran suborder Auchenorrhyncha, of the class Insecta. He sought to create a comprehensive resource for entomologists studying Homoptera, collecting a body of literature that contained virtually every word published on Homoptera through 1955. This literature collection is now housed in the NCSU Libraries.

Clyde Smith's research on the family Aphididae of the order Homoptera complemented Metcalf's work, and the combined materials create the most comprehensive collection of literature on Homoptera in the world. Smith, who taught at NC State from 1939 to 1964, produced two major volumes, *Bibliography of the Aphididae of the World* (1972) and *An Annotated List of Aphididae (Homoptera) of North America* (1978).

The Maurice H. Farrier Collection of literature on mites (more than 1,400 published items), acquired in 1998, is a unique resource for acarology. It is unsurpassed for holdings on the order Mesostigmata, which includes nearly 300 genera and fifty-nine families. Farrier, who served as a research assistant in the Department of Entomology from 1950 to 1952 and again from 1954 to 1955, studied at NC State during the time professors Metcalf and Smith

¹National Science Foundation PEET Grant number 9978026.

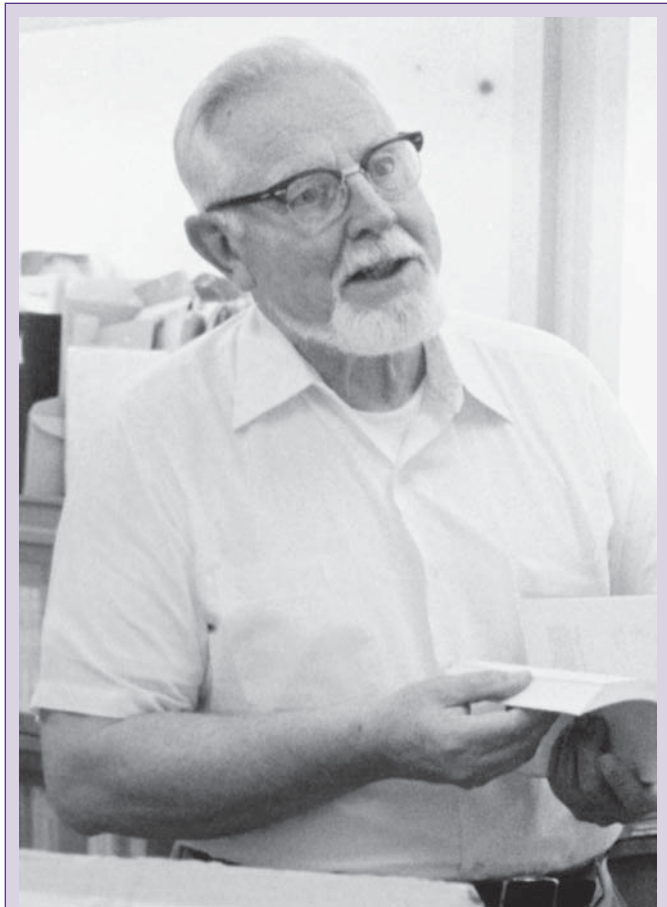
were at the university. Farrier earned a Ph.D. in entomology in 1955 and that same year became assistant professor in the department. He retired as a full professor in 1991.

Farrier's main topic of research focused on the Veigaiidae (Acarina). He wrote numerous articles for scholarly journals, news columns in various North Carolina newspapers, and other works. In March 1957 his *A Revision of the Veigaiidae (Acarina)* was published. Farrier and one of his students, Michael K. Hennessey, co-authored a taxonomic index on mites, *Soil-Inhabiting and Free-Living Mesostigmata (Acari-Parasitiformes) from North America: An Annotated Checklist and Bibliography and Index* (1993), the *Systematic Revision of Thirty Species of Free-Living, Soil-Inhabiting Gamasine Mites (Acari: Mesostigmata) of North America* (1988), and *Mites of the Family Parasitidae (Acari: Mesostigmata) Inhabiting Forest Soils of North and South Carolina* (1989).

These collections are augmented by the Tippmann collection, which David Young brought to the attention of the library. Young, who taught at NC State from 1957 to 1980, wrote a letter to Harlan C. Brown, then director of the university's library, informing him that an important personal library of entomological books was for sale. Its owner, a Viennese engineer and amateur entomologist, had earlier sold his collection of beetles to the Smithsonian. Tippman's collection of entomological literature includes many fine examples of pre-Linnean works, including a fourteenth-century woodcut plate from Konrad von Megenberg's *Buch der Natur*. It also includes the legendary tenth edition of Carolus Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae*, a book that established the use of binomial taxonomy in zoology. Many of the works in the Tippmann collection are European travel narratives spanning the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries and popular Victorian-era works on natural history and entomology. Researchers are regularly impressed by the inclusion of some of the earliest and rarest entomological periodicals.

In July 2001 Baker transferred the Entomology Department Drawing Collection to Special Collections. This collection includes drawings of insects prepared by faculty and students at

the university. These and other materials purchased by and donated to the NCSU Libraries continue to attract researchers from around the world. The dedication of faculty from the Department of Entomology to developing a literature base for research has helped to establish the NCSU Libraries as one of the world's leading repositories for entomological works. ❖



David Allan Young Jr. (1915–1991), a professor of entomology at NC State, specialized in leafhoppers. His scholarly contributions helped to show that leafhoppers are among ten of the largest families of insects. During his career, Young described 807 new cicadellid species, 7 new subspecies, 207 new genera, 6 new subgenera, and a new tribe. Photo from Special Collections, NCSU Libraries.



Focus, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>